

Application No.
Amendment dated November 20, 2009
Reply to Office Action of August 21, 2009

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 – 4, 6 – 15, 17 – 24, 26 – 29, and 46 – 48 were previously pending. As noted above, claims 1, 3, 4, 9 – 12, 14, 15, 20, 21, 23, 24, 29, and 46 – 48 have been canceled; claims 1, 10, 12, 21, and 29 have been amended; and claims 49 – 52 have been added. Support for these amendments may be found throughout the Specification.¹ Thus, claims 2, 6 – 8, 13, 17 – 19, 22, 26 – 28, and 49 – 52 are now pending and subject to examination.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application based on the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 1 – 4, 9 – 15, 20 – 24, 29, and 46 – 48 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kolev (US Patent No. 6,125,283) in view of Kaplan (US Patent No. 5,884,193). Claims 6, 7, 17, 18, 26, and 27 are rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kolev in view of Kaplan and Jonsson (US Patent No. 5,915,224). Claims 8, 19, and 28 are rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kolev, Kaplan, Jonsson, and Sakai (US Patent No. 7,010,296). As noted above, claims 1, 9 – 12, 20, 21, 29, and 46 – 48 have been canceled. Accordingly, the rejections of these claims are now moot. To the extent the pending rejections are applicable to the claims as currently pending, Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

New independent claims 49 – 52 have added to recite subject matter to which the Applicants are entitled. As noted above, these claims are fully supported throughout the Specification. These claims are allowable as there is no combination of the cited references that discloses or suggests the subject matter recited in claims 49 – 52. For example, claim 49 is directed to a method of communications via one of a plurality of communications cards comprising, receiving an origination request for a call, the request including at least one input data field comprising a dialing string; determining whether the dialing string indicates an emergency number and generating a first marking indicating that the call is allowed on each of the plurality of communications cards if the dialing string indicates an emergency number; for each communications card, determining whether the call is allowed based, at least in part, on the dialing string, and upon determining that the call is not allowed on a communications

¹ See, e.g., Specification, paragraphs 24 and 31 - 39.

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card, generating a second marking to indicate that the call is not allowed; for each communications card where the call has been determined to be allowed, determining whether the dialing string is to be altered, and upon determining that the dialing string is to be altered, generating a third marking indicating that the dialing string is to be altered; generating two or more output data fields, a first of the two or more output data fields comprising the input dialing string or if the third marking has been generated, an altered dialing string, and a second of the two or more output data fields comprising one or more bits for indicating the first, second, and third markings; and originating the call on a selected network based on the two or more output data fields. Independent claims 50 – 52 includes similar features. None of the cited references, alone or in combination with each other, disclose or suggest this combination of features.

Kolev relates generally to systems and methods for determining whether or not a user has a valid identification and is able to communicate over a particular network based on knowledge of communications network supported service levels. However, Kolev does not disclose or suggest at least the features of generating a first, second, and third markings; two or more output data fields comprising one or more bits; and originating a call on a selected network based on the two or more output data fields, as claimed in the pending claims. The addition of any combination of Kaplan, Jonsson, or Sakai does not overcome the deficiencies of Kolev, as these references are also silent with respect to these features. Accordingly, as none of the cited references, alone or in combination with each other, discloses or suggest each and every feature of the claims 49 – 52, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of claims 49 – 52.

Claims 2, 6 – 8, 13, 17 – 19, 22, 26 – 28 each depend from one of independent claims 49 – 52. As such, claims 2, 6 – 8, 13, 17 – 19, 22, 26 – 28 are patentable over the cited references at least by virtue of their dependence on an allowable independent claim and the individual features each claim recites.

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CONCLUSION

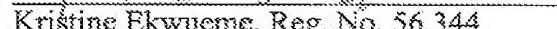
In light of these remarks, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance, for which early action is requested.

Please charge any fees or overpayments that may be due with this response to Deposit Account No. 17-0026.

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Respectfully submitted,

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